

May 7, 2015 at 7:00pm
Town Hall Meeting Room
Public Hearing: Dog Ordinance (DRAFT)

Public Hearing Called to Order : 7:00pm

Proposed Dog Ordinance was presented

Ms. Weinstein mentioned that there were a couple of technical changes but no substantial changes to what was posted on the website.

Public Comments:

Bucky Brown of 6 Tower Drive. Lived here for 52 years. First time he speaks publically. He feels that the ordinance is written in a way that make is sound like all dogs are a threat. He's spent many years on sports fields, and dogs have always been on the sidelines, and never had issues. He likes to go to Bisceglie Park and through the trails. According to the ordinance this is no longer allowed. He frequently walks his dog off leash and doesn't have an issue. He suggests the town of Weston follows the state laws that states the actions of your dog is the owners liability. If the ordinance has to stay, he suggests to allow certain the dogs should be allowed to be at parks, and to change some of the wording so it doesn't sound so severe.

Gary Weist : Old Hyde Road. Was surprised we didn't have an ordinance for picking up after your dog. He feels that taking away all open spaces and denying a dog to be able to run and socialize is cruel. Other towns have off leash dog parks. Says we need to have a space like that for dogs to run off leash.

Sharon Jaffe: Glenwood Road. Realtor in town...she sells the open space. People love being able to bring their dogs to run off leash. Also feels we need a space for dogs

Ms. Weinstein asks Mr. Harper to clarify that these leash policies were already in place. This is true for Bisceglie Park, Moorehouse Park and Keene Park. But it is new for Troutbrook Valley as well as the Town Hall Complex and Recreation Property. Lachat Farm is to be decided as they see how that property is used once it opens.

Alana Cross: Glenwood Road: asking if the off-leash loop in Troutbrook is being taken away. Ms. Weinstein says it is not, as the off-leash loop is in Easton. She also asked about Keene Park – questioned Keene Park – Mr. Harper explained that we share that park with fisherman. The dogs run off leash and jump into the water, scare the fish. He also stated that people violating the dog laws are from out of town.

Lisa Berkley, Birch Hill Road: Official town representative to the Troutbrook Valley Management Team. Dogs are leaving waste that pollutes the conservation area, they are disrespectful to other people with dogs on leash. It will allow Mr. Harper to enforce these leash laws. Dogs are attacking wild animals.

Betsy Peyreigne, Bradley Road: Lives near Troutbrook. Off-leash dogs end up going into her yard. And she can't take her dogs into Troutbrook as they don't react well to other dogs approaching them off

leash. Dogs off-leash have attacked her dogs. Mr. Harper needs this law to enforce the rules in Troutbrook.

Amy Sanborne, Old Hyde Road: Notices that there is a fair amount of dog waste on school road. Also feels that dogs shouldn't be at sporting events. She likes idea of having a warning for first offense. Supports the ordinance. Also thinks town should have off leash area for dogs.

Margaret Wirtenberg: Maybe there is somewhere we can come up with to allow dogs to be dogs. Thinks the ordinance can be modified

Don Saltzman: Newtown Turnpike: Dogs don't belong on town property or anyone else's property. Feels everyone needs to clean up after their own dog, we shouldn't be paying for Mr. Harper to pick it up. Fully supports ordinance.

Kurt Lanzer: (Easton Resident) trail steward for Troutbrook valley. He supports the ordinance. They don't have any authority to enforce the rules. He would welcome the authority to enforce.

Craig Esslinger: Ledgewood Dr. East, Feels bringing the dogs to athletic fields isn't a problem. Families juggle kids and feels families should be able to bring the dogs along. Other towns allow dogs on their fields. Dog on a leash is a controlled animal.

Ms. Weinstein suggests continuing the public hearing until our next meeting. She said she has heard many interesting comments. Perhaps a compromise with times of day. In addition, the BOE does have a regulation prohibiting dogs on the school campus.

Public Hearing for Dog Ordinance adjourned: 7:33pm

Public Hearing for Fire Arms Ordinance: 7:34pm

Ms. Weinstein stated the only change is that in section 79-3(D)1 did not have the word "Local". She felt for consistency since local law enforcement is authorized by the state to shoot firearms when necessary, we should change our ordinance to read the same way.

Public Comments:

Peter Frederiksen: Tobacco Road. Mr. Fredericks said that the firearms ordinance was passed in response to the Newtown Tragedy in 2013. He feels it is a violation against federal law and keeps our citizens from being able to protect themselves. He feels local regulation is ineffective.

No other comments.

Public Hearing for Fire Arms adjourned 7:38pm

DRAFT